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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/924,823	08/08/2001	Gregory P. Fitzpatrick	BOC9-2000-0083(218)	2585

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EXAMINER	
EHICHIOYA, FRED I	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2162	

DATE MAILED: 09/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Supplemental Notice of Allowability	Application No. 09/924,823	Applicant(s) FITZPATRICK ET AL.	
	Examiner Fred I. Ehichioya	Art Unit 2162	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *4/28/2005*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1 - 4, 6 - 8, 19 - 22, and 24 - 28 (renumbered 1 - 16)*.

3. ☒ The drawings filed on *08 August 2001* are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

 * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

 Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

Group I. Claims 1 – 8, and 19 - 28, drawn to a method of processing related records classified in class 707, subclass 100.

Group II. Claims 9 – 18, and 29 - 30, drawn to a relational database management system classified in class 707, subclass 1.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons: Inventions listed as Group I and Group II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention has separate utility as follows:

Group I has separate utility such as a method of processing related records comprising an RDMS receiving a plurality of records and the RDBMS inserting said plurality of related records into a single table of the RDBMS.

Group II has separate utility such as a relational database management system comprising an RDBMS table for storing a plurality of records, wherein said table is configured with an identifier for specifying related ones of said plurality of records as a record sets, wherein said identifier is unique to each of said record set. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

During telephone conversation with Brian K. Buchheit, Attorney for the Applicants, Registration Number 52,667 on April 28, 2005 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1 – 8, and 19 - 28. Claims 9 – 18, and 29 - 30 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Applicants are reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Examiner's Amendment

2. During telephone conversation with Brian K. Buchheit, Attorney for the Applicants, Registration Number 52,667 on April 28, 2005 authorizations for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims,

Please amend claim 1.

Claim 1. In a relational database management system (RDBMS), a method of processing relatedrecords comprising;

an RDDMS receiving a plurality of related records;

the RDBMS inserting said plurality of related records into a single table of the RDBMS;

the RDBMS associating said plurality of related records as a set within said single table using a published function of said RDBMS;

the RDAMS receiving a triggering event from an application program, wherein the application program specifies one of the related records and a processing action to be performed by the RDBMS against the specified record; and

responsive to the triggering event, the RDBMS automatically purging non-specified ones of the related records, wherein said published function is accessible to front-end systems, wherein each of said front end systems is configured to identity said plurality of records as a defined set using said published function, and wherein a published function of said RDBMS also permits each of the front end systems to disassociate selected records from said set.

Please cancel claim 5.

Please amend claim 8.

Claim 8. In a relational database management system (RDBMS), a method of processing related records comprising:

the RDBMS receiving a plurality of records;

the RDFIMS inserting said plurality of records into & single table of the RDBMS;

the RDEMS receiving a user provided indication that particular ones of said plurality of records are related records;

the RDEIMS associating said related records as a set within said single table using a published function of said RDBMS, wherein each one of said related records is assigned a common identifier unique to said set which conforms to a data type in said table for associating said related records; and

responsive to a triggering condition identifying at least one of said related records, the RDBMS selectively purging particular non-identified related records of said set from the single table, wherein said user provided indication is conveyed from a front end system, wherein said published function is accessible to said front-end system,

wherein said front end systems is configured to identity said plurality of records as a defined set using said published function, and wherein a published function of said RDBMS also permits said front end system to disassociate selected records from said set.

Please amend claim 19.

Claim 19. A machine-readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

receiving a plurality of related records:

inserting said plurality of related records into a single table of an RDBMS;

associating said plurality of related records as a set within said single table using a published function of said RDBMS; and

receiving a triggering event from an application program, wherein the application program specifies one of the related records and a processing action to be performed by the RDBMS against the specified record;

responsive to the triggering event, the RDBMS automatically purging non-specified ones of the related records, wherein said published function is accessible to front-end systems, wherein each of said front end systems is configured to identity said plurality of records as a defined set using said published function, and wherein a published function of said RDBMS also permits each of the front end systems to disassociate selected records from said set.

Please cancel claim 23.

Please amend claim 26.

Claim 26. A machine readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of

receiving a plurality of records;

inserting said plurality of records into a single table of an RDHMS;

the RDBMS receiving a user provided indication that particular ones of said plurality of records are related records;

the RDBMS associating said related records as a set within said single table using a published function of said RDBMS, wherein each one of said related records is assigned a common identifier unique to said set which conforms to a data type in said table for associating said related records; and

responsive to a triggering condition identifying at least one of said related records, the RDBMS selectively purging particular non-identified related records of said set from the single table, wherein said user provided indication is conveyed from a front end system, wherein said published function is accessible to said front-end system, wherein said front end systems is configured to identity said plurality of records as a defined set using said published function, and wherein a published function of said RDBMS also permits said front end system to disassociate selected records from said set.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1 – 4, 6 – 8, 19 – 22, and 24 - 28 are allowed over the prior art of record.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record, either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render obvious the recited feature "the RDEIMS associating said related records as a set within said single table using a published function of said RDBMS, wherein each one of said related records is assigned a common identifier unique to said set which conforms to a data type in said table for associating said related records; and

responsive to a triggering condition identifying at least one of said related records, the RDBMS selectively purging particular non-identified related records of said set from the single table, wherein said user provided indication is conveyed from a front end system, wherein said published function is accessible to said front-end system, wherein said front end systems is configured to identity said plurality of records as a defined set using said published function, and wherein a published function of said RDBMS also permits said front end system to disassociate selected records from said set", as recited in the independent claims.

The dependent claims, being definite, further limiting, and fully enabled by the specification are also allowed.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no

later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fred I. Ehichioya whose telephone number is 571-272-4034. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene can be reached on 571-272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Fred I. Ehichioya
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2162

September 9, 2005

SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER